GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4516
ANSWERED ON:19.12.2014
SEPARATE OFFICE OF TEA BOARD
Tasa Shri Kamakhya Prasad

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up separate office of Tea Board for Assam and if so, the details thereof;

(b) the funds sanctioned by the Government for Tea Board to implement various schemes of the Board during each of the last three years and the current year; and

(c) the steps taken by the Tea Board to develop the socio-economic conditions of tea labourers and their dependents?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) (SMT. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN)

(a): Tea Board has established its Zonal headquarters for the North-Eastern Region at Guwahati and the headquarters of the Small Tea Growers Directorate at Dibrugarh in Assam. Three other Regional Offices of the Tea Board are located in Assam at Jorhat, Tezpur and Silchar.

(b): Details of funds sanctioned by the Government for Tea Board to implement various schemes of the Board during the last three years and the current year (upto December, 2014) are given below:

(Rs.in Crores)

Scheme	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15 (Upto December, 2014)
Grant-In-Aid (Research and Development)	12.00	10.00	19.49	11.64
Subsidy	209.15	150.67	104.90	90.25
Total	221.15	160.67	124.39	101.89

(c): Welfare needs of plantation workers are addressed through the provisions of the Plantation Labour Act which are implemented by the tea estates under the supervision of the state governments. In addition, the Tea Board also undertakes several welfare activities which are supplemental in nature. Such activities aimed at Human Resource Development (HRD) consist of measures for improving the health and hygiene of workers; education of wards of workers; and imparting training for improvement of to improve skills.

A sum of Rs.20.15 crores was spent for the welfare of plantation workers and their dependents during the XI Plan Period. In the first two years of ongoing XII Plan Period, Rs.23.24 crores has been spent by the Tea Board for this purpose.